

and Hugh; as well as by 17 great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. Kevin O'Donnell. His work and legacy will live on with all those who were blessed with knowing him.

HONORING NEWARK, NEW JERSEY  
MAYOR CORY BOOKER

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Newark, New Jersey Mayor Cory Booker for his heroic efforts on April 13, 2012.

Mayor Booker returned home last Thursday evening to find flames erupting out of his neighbor's home. His neighbor screamed that her daughter was still inside. The mayor ran inside without hesitation, hoping to rescue the woman he had known for years. In doing so, Mayor Booker suffered second-degree burns and smoke inhalation. The woman who was trapped inside the burning home suffered second-degree burns on her back. Mayor Booker's neighbor, Zina Hodge, said "If Cory wouldn't have come in there and rescued me, I would have died in there."

Mayor Booker is one of our Nation's foremost Mayors. As Mayor of Newark, he has worked diligently to create thousands of jobs, reduce crime, and improve education. Mayor Booker's leadership has attracted approximately \$100 million in private philanthropy to the City of Newark, and a variety of nonprofits and public-private partnerships have been created with the goal of improving the lives of Newark residents. Mayor Booker is a shining example of what being a public servant truly means.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Booker continues to strive to improve the lives of the citizens of Newark. I would like to recognize the Honorable Cory Booker for his determination, hard work, and bravery. His dedication and leadership are outstanding models for public service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MERVA E.  
JACKSON

**HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Ms. Merva E. Jackson, who sadly passed away on April 4, 2012.

Few times in one's life do you come across a person with such great passion, grace, and expertise like Merva Jackson. Merva had an indelible impact on everyone she met, including me. I vividly remember a meeting I had with her and several of her colleagues in my Washington office in the spring of 2010. It was one of those inspiring meetings that you never forget. The excitement in the room and the commitment to change was palpable as we brainstormed ways to combat the pervasive school-to-prison-pipeline that entangles too many of our youth. We left the meeting ener-

gized and with a plan for a statewide conference to tackle ways to reform the system. Merva's passion ignited my own, and I remember feeling so lucky that the State of Connecticut had her to advocate on behalf of vulnerable youth. A few months later our vision became a reality when over 150 people from across the State—and the Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education—came together to listen to Merva and others discuss the critical issue of promoting dignity in schools. Of course, she provided invaluable insight and perspective that day, as she did every day.

I am deeply saddened by the loss of Merva Jackson but feel so lucky to have known her. I last saw Merva in October at a juvenile justice event in Wethersfield, Connecticut. She was busy planning events for the future, to continue her work for justice and equal opportunity for all. I hold that memory near to me, and hope all who knew her find some comfort in reflecting on their own many loving memories of Merva and take pride in all that she did and all that she was.

IN HONOR OF MS. MALAK  
JADALLAH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Malak Jadallah and to acknowledge her receipt of the Community Service Award from the Cleveland American Middle East Organization (CAMEO). Ms. Jadallah is being recognized for her service, dedication, leadership, volunteerism and advocacy on behalf of the Arab American Community of Greater Cleveland.

Malak was born and raised in Jerusalem, Palestine. She is a former art and German language teacher. Ms. Jadallah later moved with her beloved husband, Muhammad Amer, to Kuwait in 1972. Later, the Palestinians that had settled in Kuwait were forced to leave their homes and lives. Malak immigrated to the United States in 1990 and settled with her mother and sisters in Brooklyn, Ohio.

Soon after becoming a Member of Congress, I asked Malak to join my Congressional staff in Lakewood, Ohio. She has been faithfully serving the residents of the 10th District for 15 years as a constituent service representative specializing in immigration and visa issues. Prior to working in my office, Malak was a program director for the Arab American Community Center for Economic and Social Services (AACCESS). She has continued her work in the Arab community and has been a member of CAMEO for 18 years. She also worked with the Council of American-Islamic Relations, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, American Arab Institute, Beit Hanina Federation and the Ramallah Federation.

As a result of her steadfast dedication, Malak has been honored numerous times throughout the years. She has been recognized by the Arab American Community Center, Albanian American Association of Cleveland and Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission to the U.S.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating Ms. Malak Jadallah as she is

honored by the Cleveland American Middle East Organization.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN PAYTON

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, "Democracy, at its core, requires that all of the people be included in 'We the People.'" Uttered by Mr. John Adolphus Payton during a 2008 speech in Michigan, this quote embodies his legacy. A true pioneer, John Payton rarely turned down an opportunity to advocate for the least among us and reminded America time and again of the necessity to advance toward a more inclusive and tolerant society. From his youth until his last days, John Payton fought for the recognition of individual rights and taught us how to work toward democracy—not just speak about it.

A quick glance at John's background quickly reveals the makings of a civil rights giant. At the height of the overt racial tensions of 1965, John Payton was one of only a handful of black students at Pomona College. Even as a working student, John found time to enhance the quality of collegiate life for disadvantaged students by founding Pomona's Black Student Association, organizing and participating in anti-war and civil rights demonstrations, successfully lobbying Pomona's administration to recruit more black students, and for the creation of a black studies program. A year after graduating from Pomona College, John enrolled at Harvard Law School in 1974. As a law student he obtained affidavits from black student activists who were injured during Boston's school busing controversy. John served as an ideal model of what true civic engagement should be. Even without a formal title, he used his resources to fight for the rights of others.

Serving as the sixth president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), John led many victories before the U.S. Supreme Court, including the 2010 case *Lewis v. City of Chicago*, where John successfully represented a group of firefighters who argued that the city had discriminated against black recruits by using a grading system that resulted in no black applicants being hired. Though their claims had been barred by a statute of limitations defense in the lower court, the Supreme Court reversed those findings, allowing the recruits' claims to move forward. Prior to taking the helm of the NAACP LDF, in 2003 John argued in *Grutter v. Bolinger* that the University of Michigan had a compelling interest in promoting class diversity, and that acknowledging race as one of many factors in admissions decisions was not a quota. In a 5–4 decision, the Supreme Court agreed with John's argument, and put our nation one step closer towards achieving equitable higher education for all.

John's journey to erasing the "badges of slavery" meant challenging racism head on. As an associate with the D.C. law firm Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering (now known as Wilmer Hale), he contributed to the firm's representation of the NAACP in various legal matters, including assisting with the 1982 Supreme Court case *NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co.* The